Science and technological institutions for training youths

61. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of science and technological institutions under Government/aided by Government that conduct courses and training for the youths in the country;

(b) whether Government have proposed to set up more institutions of higher learning in the field of science and technology during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promotion of Research and development

62. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in the field of research and development in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that our country has not been able to pump in the required funds in the research and development sector; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) A substantial increase, more than double the 9th plan outlay, in the tenth plan outlay for S & T Departments is a clear indication of the commitment of the Government to the overall development of science and technology in the country. Presently, only 0.8% of GNP is devoted to R&D sector. While the plan outlay has been doubled, there is still need to increase the funding in the R&D sector. Government has taken a number of initiatives for the promotion of research & development in science and technology in the country. During the 10th Five Year Plan the Government has focused on generating relevant innovative technologies; preserving, protecting and adding value to indigenous resources; adopting an appropriate mix of traditional, conventional and modern technologies;

developing and nurturing human resource; strengthening basic research in the areas of frontline science & engineering and, promoting S&T interventions in major socio-economic ministries and states so as to make them real stake holders of S&T. The support to research is enhanced through S&T mission mode programmes, establishment of new research centres of excellence, international collaborative projects, strengthening of R&D infrastructure in academic institutions and research labs, institution of prestigious fellowships like Swaranajayanti Fellowship for outstanding Young Scientists, Ramanna Fellowship for performing scientists, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship for Young Scientists, Ramanujan Felowships to attract outstanding scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research in our country, J.C Bose Fellowships to recognize and support active, performing Indian scientists & engineers. Major new initiatives include National Biotechnology Strategy; Nano Science & Technology Mission; National Mission on Bamboo Applications; Seismology Mission; Drug & Pharmaceuticals R&D; New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative; Tsunami Warning System etc.

Filter Technique for clean drinking water

†63. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pune-based National Chemical Laboratory has developed an affordable filter technique for making potable water germs-free;

(b) if so, the efforts made by Government to use this technology for providing clean drinking water in rural India;

(c) whether any proposal has been sent to the Department of Drinking Water under the Ministry of Rural Development for using this affordable technology in the mission of supply of drinking water;

(d) if so, the progress made in this regard so far, and

(e) if not, whether Government propose to promote such technology?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The CSIR laboratory, National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune has developed the 'Ultra-filtration (UF) membrane', which does not allow bacteria and viruses (Hepatitis 'A' & 'E') to pass

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.